

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 15843

DEPT PASS JOHN SANDS, MAJOR PROJECTS DIVISION, COMMERCE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, IN

SUBJ: KUDREMU KH IRON ORE DEVELOPMENT

REF: A) NEW DELHI 15460

B) STATE 251558

C) NEW DELHI 14705

D) NEW DELHI A-390, 1974 OCT 16

1. THE COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM A VERY RELIABLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE CONFIDENTIAL INDIAN SOURCE. A KUDREMU KH "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIP TP" WAS SIGNED NOVEMBER 21 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF IRAN AND INDIA.

2. THE GOI MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES IS "TENTATIVELY" PLANNING TO SEND TWO DIFFERENT DEPYGATIONS ABROAD, ONE TO THE USA AND THE OTHER TO EUROPE, CIRCA DECEMBER 8 IF ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE COMPLETED IN TIME. OUR SOURCE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MINISTRY HAS ITS DOUBTS ABOUT ORGANIZING DLELGATIONS THAT QUICKLY AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE DELEGATIONS WILL NOT LEAVE INDIA UNTIL VERY EARLY JANUARY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED.

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3. THE DELEGATION TO THE US PLANS TO VISIT SPECIFIC COMPANIES (UNIDENTIFIED, BUT BELIEVED TO BE THOSE LISTED IN OUR TELEGRAM 14705, NOVEMBER 1, 1974) IT WILL DISCUSS THE SCOPE OF THE WORK INVOLVED, A PRICE FORMULA AND SOLICIT COMMENTS ON ANY MODIFICATIONS OR IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED BY THE US COMPANIES CONTACTED.

4. A SECOND VISIT BY THE DELEGATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH, PRESUMABLY FEBRUARY, WILL ELIMINATE THOSE COMPANIES THAT DO NOT MEET THE GOI REQUIREMENTS OR EXPECTATIONS. THE GOI HOPES TO HAVE A CONTRACT SIGNED AND DELIVERED BY MARCH 31, 1974.

5. DELIVERY OF IRON ORE TO IRAN IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN BY JANUARY 1, 1979.

6. WE ALSO LEARNED THAT MARCONA IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO SECURE A MAJOR ROLE. IT HAS REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDED FLUOR-UTAH AS THE PRIME CONTRACTOR TO UNDERTAKE THE CONSTRUCTION. THE GOI HAS INFORMATION THAT BOTH MARCONA AND FLUOR-UTAH ARE OWNED BY CYPRESS MINING AND IS PRESUMABLY JUDGING THE MARCONA RECOMMENDATION ACCORDINGLY.

7. WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE A STATUS REPORT FROM THE MAJOR PROJECTS DIVISION AS THIS WOULD HELP US COORDINATE OUR JOINT EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THIS PROJECT.
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